

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The drawing changes requested by the Examiner have been effected by the above amendment.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter at claim 10 is appreciated and it will be noted that this claim has been rewritten in independent format so that it is in fully allowed condition and no further comment will be made with respect to that claim.

The cover sheet of the outstanding Office Action indicates that claims 4 and 8 are also "objected to". However, the undersigned can see no "objection" (e.g., any alleged informality) with respect to claims 4 and 8. Accordingly, if any such objection was intended, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned for clarification.

The rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Bois '269 is respectfully traversed.

Bois is directed to an entirely different kind of filter with spring loaded mechanically moving pressure bypass valves and the like. Claim 1 has been amended above so as to require a honeycombed structure having a multiplicity of cells surrounded by partitioning walls -- and thus cannot possibly be anticipated by the substantially different structure of Bois.

The rejection of claims 3, 5-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Dimick '966 is also respectfully traversed.

The Examiner's comments indicate a clearly erroneous interpretation of Dimick '966. In particular, the Examiner has erroneously assumed that the upper end of the filter in Figure 7 of Dimick is the "downstream end". However, that cannot possibly be correct. At column 7, Bois specifically describes inlet channels 14 and outlet channels 15. Furthermore, inspection of the depicted particulate deposits in Figure 7 also indicate that the upper end of the filter in Figure 7 must be the upstream end (i.e., the end into which the gas is flowing) -- rather than the downstream end as alleged by the Examiner.

Furthermore, the Examiner's error is also readily apparent when one studies the Dimick '966 teaching to discover that the whole rationale for the Dimick structure is to permit porosity at the inlet face of the filter so as to encourage ignition of the particulates across the whole inlet face of the filter (i.e., to encourage ignition to jump from one inlet channel to another across the inlet face).

The rejection of claims 3, 4, 6, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by JP '414 is also respectfully traversed.

It is noted that the Examiner has not included claim 5 in this ground of rejection. Since the limitations of claim 5 have now been incorporated in claim 3, this ground of rejection is believed to have been mooted.

The Examiner's attention is also drawn to new claims 11-14. Claim 11 depends from claim 1. New independent claim 12 requires solid complete plugs to be disposed in the upstream end of a first subset of the passages so as to prevent direct gas flow into the upstream ends while also requiring that at least a substantial portion of plugs in the remaining subset of downstream end plugs be partially open such that the pressure drop experience by gas flowing through the filter is limited even in the presence of excessive particulate deposits along the longitudinal filter passageways. Dependent claims 13 and 14 add yet further patentable distinction to the subject matter of claim 12.

Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:

  
Larry S. Nixon  
Reg. No. 25,640

LSN:vc

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201-4714  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100



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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

FOR S. 10/022,414

Fig.6

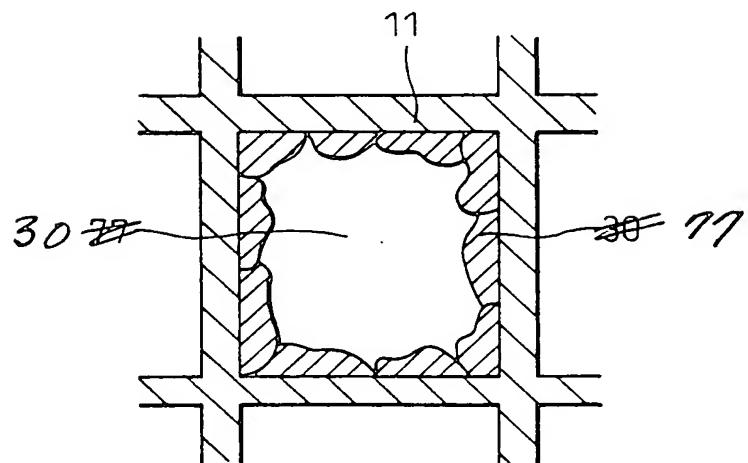
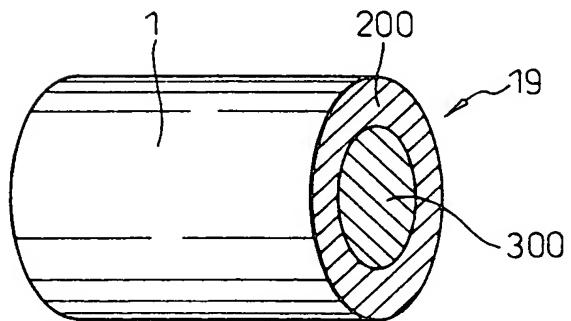


Fig.7





PROPOSED DRAWING AMENDMENT

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Fig.10  
(PRIOR ART)

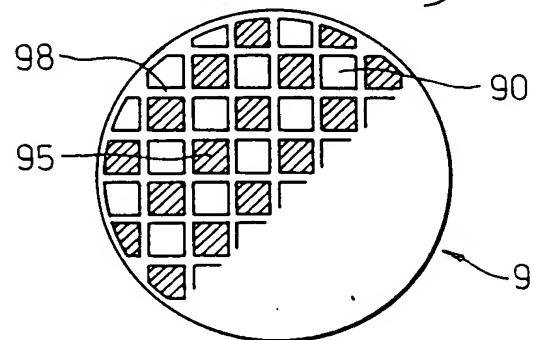


Fig.11  
(PRIOR ART)

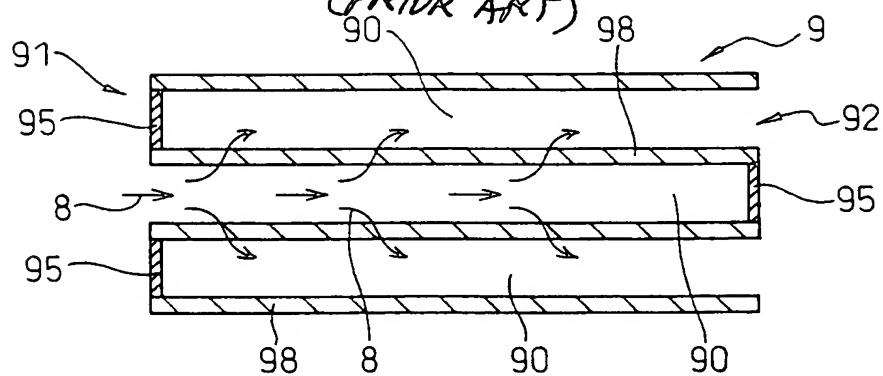


Fig.12  
(PRIOR ART)

